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CHOICE BEFORE VOTERS

Peace, Progress And Prosperity Or Disorder And Chaos

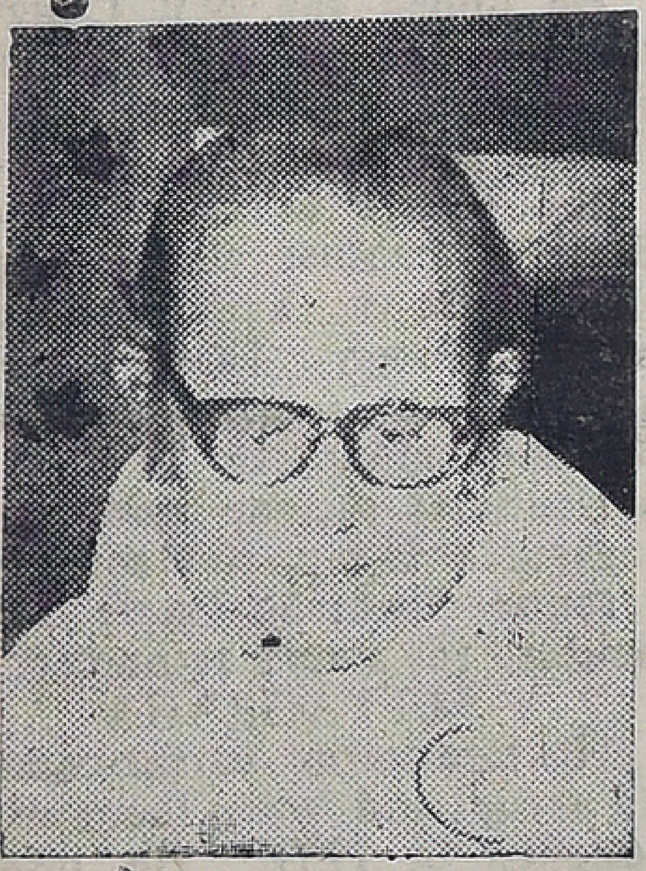
ELECTION propaganda has started in right earnest throughout the country with the release of manifestos by different parties.

Meetings are being held and statements are issued explaining the policies of parties and applealing to voters for whole hearted support.

Congress President D. K. Barooah in a statement has said the choice before the electorate was not between democracy and dictatorship ' because democracy we have and cherish, else there would be no free elections".

The choice was not between going forward with freedom towards peace, progress and prosperity or returning to disorder, chaos and dissolution of all that had been built carefully and painfully, he said.

The Congress faith in socialism democracy and secularism was rooted in the soil of this country



Sri D. K. BAROOAH
Congress President

and its tradition and heritage, not merely on theoretical considerations.

"The desperate group, who form the opposition today and whose ideologies range from extremes of right and left, have had a chance to show their mettle at the state level. As everyone knows this experiment led to disaster. And yet these parties now claim that they can together offer an alternative at the centre."

In an election people vote for a Government, not an opposition, for people who know how to wield power not merely to exploit it as a basis for personal ends, for stable conditions within the framework of democracy and liberty, not for chaos in the name of abstract rights. If there was a temporary deviation from the great purposes of the nation during the Emergency it was caused, as everyone knows, by these very elements who now claim to be champions of democracy.

"Democracy thrives not only when there is a democratic form of Government but also when there is its practice and observance by the entire nation." he said.

The Congress President was happy that the Opposition parties had undertaken to work for a free and fair election, avoiding acrimony and personal attacks. But he was grieved to find that Mr. Jagjivan Ram "who has long been trained in the process of democracy and its working" should taunt Mrs. Gandhi personally with insensitivity to the woes of the poor since she comes from an affluent background. "History shows how many affluent people have been impoverished or have sought voluntary impoverishment during the freedom struggle and after It also shows how many

Smt. INDIRA GANDHI
Prime Minister

who began with little or nothing have enriched themselves over these years. The people know who is who. What matters eventually is not the involuntary background of the individual but the living passion that is brought to the cause of the economic, social and political justice of the millions of our people. To this passion both the Congress and Mrs. Gandhi are indisputably committed." Mr. Barooah said.

Addressing public meetings in his constituency, Mr Jagjivan Ram, Chairman of the Congress for Democracy, said that he had no personal grievance against the Prime Minister. He resigned from the Cabinet and the Congress in deference to the wishes of 60 crores of people of the country who were feeling "suffocation under the present regime,"

TEST OF LOYALTY

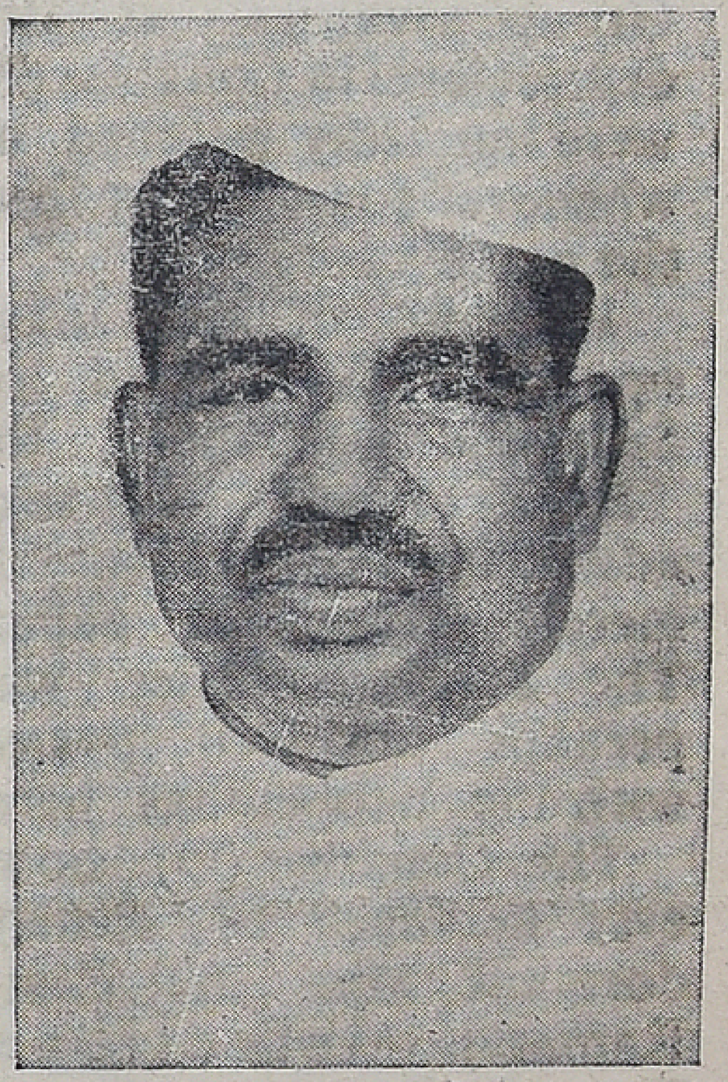
Mr. Y.B. Chavan told a meeting in Satara that the Lok Sabha elections had come as a test of loyalty for those people who had devoted their life to make the Congress stronger.

The opposition had come together in a bid to destroy the Congress but the Congres was not built in a day.

In a big organisation wedded to the causes of the masses, some changes and small upheavals did occur from time to time.

Occasionally there were leaders who failed to keep in step with the rank. Such people deserved to be ignored. The Congress had survived all such happenings and would continue to do so.

Mr Chavan pointed out that those who cried dictatorship at every step, were making themselves the laughing stock of the nation. The Lok Sabha could have been continued for a year more. But the Prime Minister



Sri JAGJIVAN RAM
Congress for Democracy

dissolved the Lok Sabha a year earlier. The opposition leaders, who talked time and again of democracy conveniently failed to appreciate this action.

ALLIANCE WITH AIADMK

The Union Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, explaining

(Contd. on page 7)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Truth resides in every human heart, and one has to search for it there, and to be guided by truth as one sees it. But no one has a right to coerce others to act according to his own view of truth.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Feb. 20, 1977

CONGRESS—AIADMK—CPI ALLIANCE

Kamaraj hated both DMK and the Anna DMK. He used to say they were just two sides of the same coin.

The two Congresses in Tamilnadu have entered into electoral alliances with A I Anna DMK and D. M. K.

In spite of the much publicised merger, the two Congresses have existed separately in Tamil Nadu. Just a few from the Congress (O) jointed the Congress (R). And they only helped to create tensions within the party. Group rivalries at the district level in Congress (R) were hurriedly patched up whenever some leader from the north came.

In spite of the many opportunities created by Smt. Indira Gandhi, the TNCC failed to take advantage of them. It merely existed on paper. The Prime Minister was perhaps not well posted with the happenings here.

The Congress (O) however managed to remain dormant after the Post-Kamaraj defections. Though it had a good following, it didn't have enough finance to maintain a modern political party. However, it kept aloft the high principles of Kamaraj and carefully avoided connnection's with the discredited DMK, which never missed an opportunity to placate Mr. P. Ramachandran, Congress (O, President.

A weak Congress (R) (weak in Tamilnadu) had to lean on some other party to save its face in the elections. Of the two DMK's, Anna DMK came into existence as a protest against the misdeeds of its parent body under Mr. M. Karunanidhi. The big probe ordered by the Central Government into the activities of the DMK Ministers was at the instance of Mr. M.G. Ramachandran AIADMK leader and Mr. M. Kalyanasundaram CPI leader.

So there is enough justification for a Congress (R)—AIADMK—CPI alliance to fight the elections. Mr. C. Subramaniam, architect of the alliance, has given a clean chit to the AIADMK. Dissentions on this score are just foolish.

The DMK has been in search of respectability during every election. Rajaji blessed it first; it captured the power in Tamil Nadu. Congress (R) helped it to continue in power during the last election. Now faced with charges of corruption—the enormity of which is still to be measured—the DMK was on the prowl for an alliance, which, even if it could not cleanse it of its sins, can provide a cover.

When everybody is afraid to touch the party with a pair of tongs, the Janata Party, in its mad frenzy, has sought its help to fight Smt. Indira Gandhi. Mr. P. Ramachandran and his close friends are reported to have been reluctant to join the alliance. But the go-betweens have numbed their conscience. They have just become tools in the hands of Mr. Karunanidhi and reports say the Congress (O) partners have very little voice now in the conduct of election campaigns.

The real position now is that M. G. R. alone can restore the prestige of Congress (R) in Tamil Nadu. It is too late now to point the accusing finger at anybody for this position. The Congress—AIADMK—CPI alliance must be worked to success at any cost, if Tamil Nadu is to be saved from another depredation by the DMK.

Product of Freedom Struggle

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was one of those leaders who were fashioned on the anvil of India's freedom struggle.

In has first speech as president he said: "I am a product of the national movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and his eminent followers—Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Maulana Azad".

His rise to the nation's highest office on August 24, 1974, came as a climax to an illustrious political career which spanned more than 40 years.

Mr. Ahmed was baptised into politics in 1934, when he sacrificed a lucrative practice at the bar and joined the Congress and subsequently played a prominent role in stearing the party through its vicissitudes.

He was imbued with unflinching faith in the ideals of democracy, socialism and secularism, honesty of purpose and unwavering loyalty to his leaders. He stood by the party through thick and thin during the heyday of the Muslim League.

IRON WILL

He had a cosmopolitan background. His father belonged to Assam and was an officer of the Indian medical service. His mother hailed from an ancient family of Delhi.

He had the reputation of being a man with an iron will though always soft spoken and courteous. Despite being a busy politician, he showed keen interest in sports and did more than any other public man to foster sports in the country.

He had been the president of the all India lawn tennis association since April 1967 and India owes much to him in its rise as a tennis playing country. He had also been president of Assam football and cricket associations, vice-chairman of Assam sports council, and member of the Delhi golf club and Delhi gymkhana club since 1966.

Mr. Ahmed, the second Muslim to be elected president, was born in Delhi on May 13, 1905. His father Col. Z. A. Ahmed, who was in the army, was originally from Kacharihat in Golaghat subdivisions of Assam.

EDUCATION

He received his early education in government high school at Gonda in Uttar Pradesh. As a pupil he was more interested in sports than in his studies.

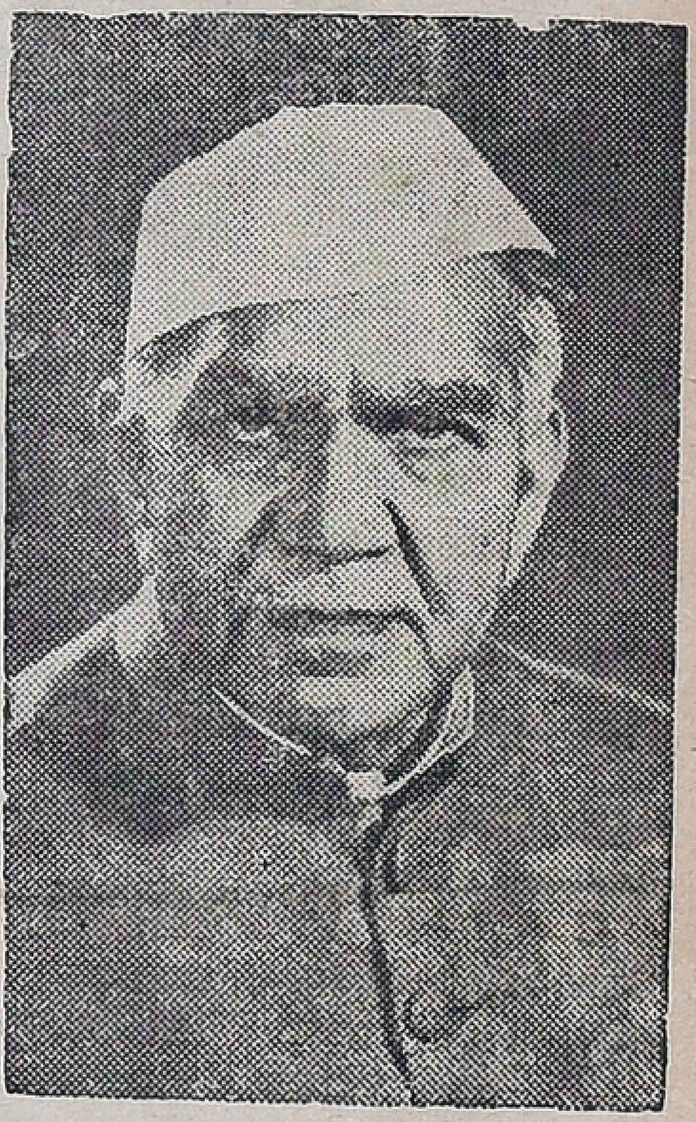
He moved to Delhi in 1918 when he was in class VII following his father's transfer. He passed the matriculation examination of Punjab University from the government high school in 1921.

Mr. Ahmed then joined St. Stephens college in Delhi but soon proceeded to England where he was admitted to St. Katherine's college of Cambridge University. He graduated in history tripos in 1927. After completing the law course, he was called to the bar from the Inner Temple in 1928.

Returning to India, Mr. Ahmed enrolled himself as an advocate of Punjab High Court but went to Assam in the same year along with his father and had been there except for a brief period when he practised law in Calcutta.

JOINED CONGRESS

Mr. Ahmed joined the Congress and plunged into politics during the tumultuous days of 1931. Four years later he successfully contested the Assam assembly election from a reserved



FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED

Muslim seat in the face of stiff opposition from Sir Mohammad Saadullah, who was then in power in Assam.

He had since been continuosuly a member of the Assam pradesh Congress committee, working committee of the Assam pradesh Congress and AICC member except for short breaks.

He joined the first Congress cabinet headed by Gopinath Bardoloi in 1938 as minister for finance and revenue.

His tenure as member of the Bardoloi cabinet was distinguished by many radical meassures he put through These included a 50 per cent remission in land revenue imposition of tax on agricultural income and various measures to tap new sources of revenue which more than doubled the state's resources.

SATYAGRAHA

His ministerial career came to an abrupt end when the ministry resigned in 1939. He offered indivinual satyagraha in 1940 in obedience to Mahatma Gandhi's command and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

Soon after his release, he was again taken a security prisoner and was detained for three and

(Contd. on page 7)

THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

By Dr. R. S. MURTHY,
Chief, Directorate of All-India Soil & Land Use Survey, IARI.

There is growing recognition among professional observers that a crisis in human ecology is approaching. The relation of people to their environment is becoming more critically important, for very different reasons, in some of the most technologically advanced countries and also in many of the less developed countries in the tropical and sub-tropical world.

In temperate climates the general public of the Western World are newly awakening to the realisation that the technical progress outruns our ability to protect vital natural resources

Fresh air fresh water, good agricultural land and areas of great natural beauty are belatedly recognised as being in need of active protection on a national scale. The Stockholm conference on the human environment held in 1972 has recognised the urgency for decisions on the protection of natural resources.

Soil and water are two basic and important resources which have a bearing on the maintenance of equilibrium between man and nature. Since any interference results in depletion of the resources, conservation of these two resources is thus vital.

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL REGIONS

As a per-requisite, a proper understanding and analysis of the various agro-ecological regions based on factors like soil, water, vegetation, land use, crops etc. is essential. In our country 8 such agro-ecological regions have been identified-the Humid Western Himalayan Region, Humid Bengal Assam Basin, Humid Eastern Himalayan Region, Sub-Humid Sutlej Ganga Alluvial Plains, Sub-Humid to Humid Eastern and South-Eastern Uplands, Arid Western Plains, Semi-Arid Lava Plateaus and Central Highlands and Humid and Semi-Arid Eastern Ghats.

The Humid Western Himalayan Region consists of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Hill Divisions of Uttar Pradesh with perpetual snow abounding above 3000 m.

The rainfall in Ladakh is as low as 8 cm touching about 115 cm in Jammu and 50-350 cm in U.P. hills. Vegetation is mainly of the Himalayan meadow type and evergreen conifers. Soils are pre-dominantly mountain, sub-mountain and brown hill type.

Hardly 5% of the Kashmir region is cultivated. Irrigation is available for 40% of the cultivated land, 90% of the cropped area produces crops like maize, wheat, barley, ragi and potato. Horticulture and sericulture are supplementary to agriculture. In Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh 17% of the total area is under cultivation.

INDISCRIMINATE EXPLOITATION

Indiscriminate felling, over grazing, soil erosion and soil acidity are the main liabilities of the region Rich forest wealth, alpine grasslands most suitable for sheep rearing and fruit gardening are the assets of the region.

The vast glaciers on melting provide ample water for irrigation in the plains and hydro-electricity in the hills. Crop as well as animal husbandry can profitably go together in enhancing the regional economy and allied industries can provide adequate employment opportunities.

The Humid Bengal-Assam Basin comprising States of West Bengal and Assam is a contrast characterised by hot humid monsoon climate with average precipitation ranging from 220-400 cm. Mid July to October is the period of surplus moisture and floods are common.

Tropical deciduous forests in the west, humid tropical forests in the north and mangrove and tidal forests in the south contribute to the diversified vegetation. In Assam valley and the sub-moutain tracts bamboo and cane forests are common.

The pre-dominant soils of the region are alluvial soils in the Ganga-Brahmaputra plains, deltaic and coastal alluvial soils, lateritic soils and brown hill soils.

In West Bengal nearly 75% of the total area is under cultivation. Uplands grow single crops whereas plains and delta are double cropped with supplementary irrigation. In Assam valley which is subject to frequent floods, cultivated area is limited. Rice is the main crop.

VARIABLE GEOLOGY

In the Humid Eastern Himalayan Region covering States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Bay Islands of Andaman and Nicobar, the mountain ranges are 300 to 8000 metres with steep slopes. Geology is highly variable. The forests are rich represented by tropical evergreen, temperate evergreen and conifers in the mountains and valleys.

In the Andamans, there are mangroves, bamboos and tropical evergreen forests. Average rainfall is 200-400 cm. In the Bay Islands rains are common throughout the year except February-April. The soils are classified as brown hill, red loamy, red and yellow, alluvial and lateritic.

Cultivation is practised in 30-40% of the area in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura States, in the plains and valleys. In other areas it is restricted to about 4% of the total area. Rice, maize, small millets and potato are the common crops grown.

The main liability of farming system is shifting cultivation known as 'Jhooming'. It is a great menace as it creates deforestation resulting in soil erosion and poor economy'.

The fourth Region namely the Sub-Humid Sutlej-Ganga Alluvial plains consisting of the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh plains, Delhi Territory and Bihar is mostly represented by alluvial plains excepting the Siwaliks region.

Average rainfall varies from 30 to 200 cm. in the plains and Tarai tracts. Soils are generally alluvial and more calcareous in south west, and reddish in the sub-mountain region. They are highly variable in texture and moisture capacity. Saline and alkali soils are common in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar is affected by floods.

VEGETATIONAL PATTERN

65 to 85% of the total area is under cultivation. The western plains are dominantly wheat areas and the eastern ones paddy dominated.

The Sub-Humid to Humid Eastern and South-Eastern uplands which includes the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh is the fifth region. The climate is sub-humid, monsoonic with annual precipitation of 100-180 cm excepting the western Andhra Pradesh which receives 30 to 40 cm rains.

Deciduous forests are common and occupy nearly 40% in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. In Andhra Pradesh forests occupy about 25% of the total area. The soils are mixed black, red, laterite, black, riverine-alluvial and coastal sandy. The soils vary in the moisture capacity and they are poor in nutrient status.

Rice assumes importance in high rainfall areas, coastal plains and deltaic tracts. In dry land agriculture, jowar is grown both in kharif and rabi.

Salinity and floods are problems of the coastal districts. Red and laterite soils are acidic and require liming. Shifting cultivation is common in Orissa.

The Arid Western Plains comprising the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Dadra &

(Contd. on page 6)

Fertilizer Production

Fertilizers, selected as a key industry in the efforts to raise to developing world's total share of industrial production to at least 25 per cent by the year 2000, were the subject of the first full-scale consultation between developed and developing countries arranged by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

More than 50 national delegations and 20 from international or other organizations attended a five-day meeting which was held from January 17 to January 22 at the Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna.

The event marks an important step in implementing decisions made at the Second General Conference of UNIDO in 1975 and later endorsed by the General Assembly.

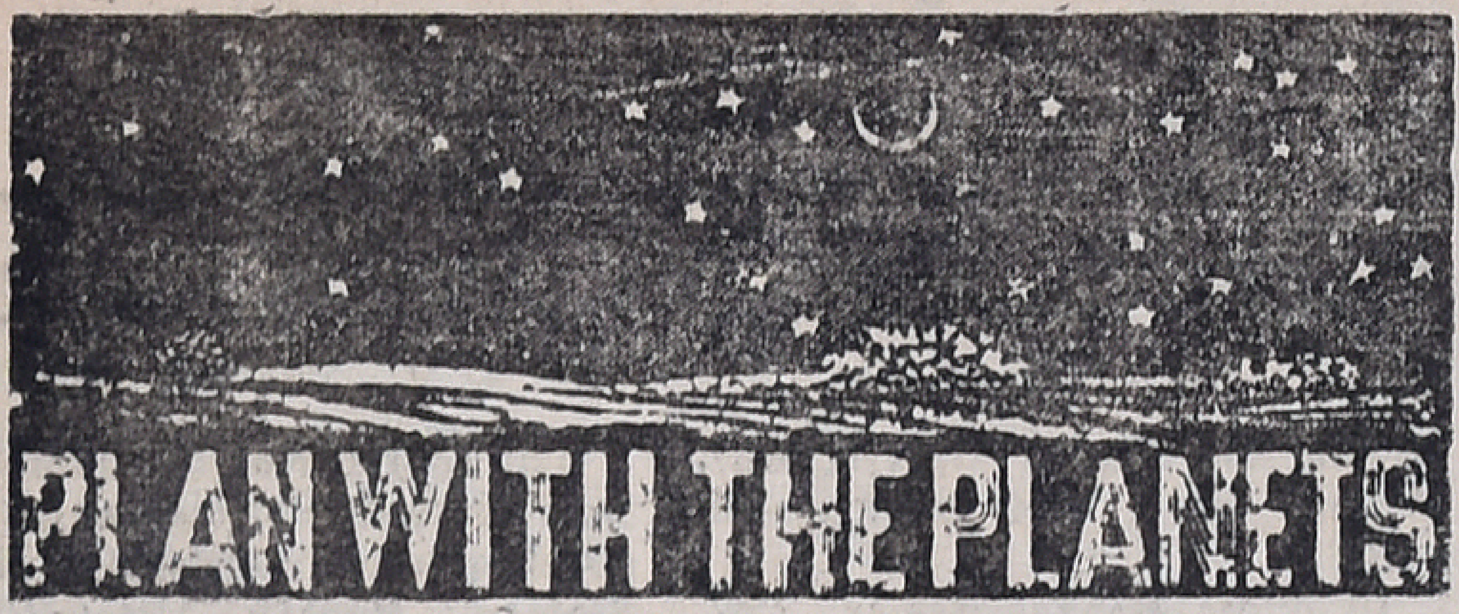
Achievement of the total production target does not imply a set figure and date for each industry. In fertilizers, UNIDO estimates that developing countries will need to reach a 25 per cent if they are to meet their own needs, or even 50 per cent should they become net exporters to developed countries.

Initial discussions at the consultation meeting were concerned with allocation of production between developed and developing countries, with a target for the latter. Other subjects included details of infrastructure for production and distribution, the construction and operation of plants and their financing.

These and other aspects of fertilizer production were examined at a preparatory meeting held by UNIDO in November, 1976, when the participants came from 28 countries including India.

Unconstitutional

A recently promulgated Oklahoma law forbids the sale of strong beer to men below the age of 21 and women below the age of 18. The difference is explained thus: statistics show that males aged 18-20 pose a greater menace to highway safety than women of the same age if they are intoxicated. The U. S. Supreme Court holds that this law is unconstitutional because it permits sex discrimination.



For The Week 20th, February To 26th, February 1977

Mesha

YOU are passing through one of the best periods. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are indicated. You should try to start new ventures. You can expect cooperation from family members. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Partnership arrangements could be finalised. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

Rishaba

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You should try to improve your business. Promotional possiblities are bright. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Matters relating to children require attention. Favourable days 20th & 21.

★

Mithuna

MIXED results are indicated. You will be able to solve some of your problems. Business prospects will improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will not be satisfactory. You should avoid speculative investments. Also avoid friction with family members. Property matters require attention. You may be hearing from a friend or relative living abroad. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

★

Kataka

YOU are coming out of difficult period. But you should wait for some more time to solve your problems. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. You can not expect much cooperation from your family members. Avlod friction with partners and associates. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

★

Simha

MIXED results are indicated. You will be able to solve some of your problems connected with your profession. But you should take extra precaution to avoid legal complications. You should also try to avoid friction with associates. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 20th & 21st.

★

Kanya

YOU are entering one of the best periods. You should try make best use of this oppotunity to improve your prospects. If you are planning to go abroad, you should start preparing now. Business prospects will improve. Partnership matters could be finalised. Financial position will improve But avoid speculative investments. Matters relating to children require attention. Avoid impulsive actions on 22nd & 23rd.

★

Thula

MIXED results are indicated. You should avoid legal complications. And also avoid friction with superiors. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from family members. Matters relating to children require attention. Business prospects will improve. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 23rd & 24th.

★

Vrischika

YOU are entering one of the best periods. You should try to make best of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You should try to start new ventures. You should also try to enter into new partnership arrangements. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Health will be well maintained. Property matters require attention. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

★

Dhanus

MIXED results are indicatep. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. You should avoid friction with associates and superiors. You cannot expect cooperation from family members. Financial position will improve. Property matters could be finalised. But you should consult legal experts before finalising the transaction to avoid complications later. Change of place is indicated for some. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

★

Makara

YOU are entering into one of the best periods. You should try make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised. Partnership matters require attention. Business prospects will improve. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You should avoid friction with family members. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

Kumbha

YOU will be able to slove some of the long pending problems favorably. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Business prospects will improve. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will show signs of improvement. Avoid friction with superiors You will be able to start new venture shortly. Favourable days : 21st & 22nd.

Meena

FAVOURABLE period will continue for some more time. You should try to settle important issues as early as possible. Health will improve. Financial position will be sotisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. If you are planning to go abroad you should start making preparations. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Avoid friction with family members. Matters relating to children requireattention. Favourable days : 23rd & 24th.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

HIS VICE

A youth applying for a job was asked by his prospective employer: "Do you smoke?"

"No," said the youth,

"Do you drink ?"

"No."

Jocularly the employer continued : "Then your recreation must be going out with girls?"

The youth shook his head.

"Do you mean to say you haven't a single vice?"

"Oh, yes, I have," the other admitted "I tell lies."

* * *

TICKLE

An old lady at the Zoo was sitting on a camel, while the keeper was trying in vain to make it move. At last the old lady got off and started to pet it; but still it refused to budge. Suddenly, however, it got up and went running off at speed.

The keeper turned to the old lady. "Madam," he said, "what did you do to him? '

"I only tickled his back !" she replied.

"Well," replied the keeper, "you'd better tickle mine. I've got to catch him !"

NEXT CONFINEMENT

A young officer returning from leave was about to take his place in an airliner when a girl ran up and asked the passengers if any one of them would be kind enough to sell her his seat as her mother was dangerously ill and the liner was full up.

The officer gave up his seat and wired his C.O,: "Given birth to girl. Returning by next 'plane".

The reply he received ran: "Congratulations. Your next confinement will be in barracks."

* * *

THEIR WISH

A parson decided to go on a deep-sea fishing expedition. Embarking in a small rowing-boat, he was taken out into the bay by a boatman. After half an hour or so a violent squall got up and it seemed as though the boat might soon be swamped.

"I wish," groaned the boatman, rowing hard, "that I had been a better man!"

The parson smiled. "And I wish," he said, "that I had been a better swimmer !"

NO DIFFERENCE

Said the pretty show girl to her wealthy admirer. "You're such a darling, Mr. Moneybags. Please don't think I love you because you're worth a million. I'd love you just as much if you were worth only five hundred thousand !"

* * *

REFRESHING

At a club in Hollywood a young author was introduced to a film critic. The writer's first picture had just been shown, and he immediately asked the critic for his opinion of it.

"It was very refreshing," said the critic. "Very refreshing, I felt like a new man when I woke up!"

* * *

THE POINTER

The wedding presents were on view. Displayed in a prominent position was a cheque for £2, 000, the gift of the bride's father.

"I say, who is that chap laughing at your father's cheque?" exclaimed the bridegroom, feeling annoyed.

"Oh," said the bride, "that's his bank manager!"

HYDROPHOBIA

By Dr. VITALY KARETNY

Hydrophobia is an acute infectious disease. The main source of human infection is rabid animals. The rabies virus lodges in the brain of animals and people, and is discharged with their saliva. All domestic animals and birds may suffer from rabies. Dogs and cats are most dangerous among them. But infection may be spread by cows, horses, pigs, sheep and poultry even. Rodents—rats and mice—also suffer from rabies.

Special studies have revealed that 85 per cent of infections are the result of dog bites. Infection occurs mainly when a person is bitten by a rabid animal. But one may also catch the infection from an outwardly healthy animal which has just become infected, if the latter's saliva lands upon a skin abrasion or scratch. Therefore playing with cats is particularly dangerous because there is every possibility of damaging one's skin which enhances rapid penetration of the virus into the organism.

THREE STAGES

Every person who has pet animals, particularly dogs and cats, should know of the early signs of rabies, and at the slightest suspicion, take the sick animal to a veterinary surgeon. In the case of animals, two forms of rabies are most common. One is violent and the other passive or paralytic. Three stages are observed in the course of the disease's development such as the periods of premonition (incubation), excitation and paralysis. A few days after a dog is bitten by a rabid animal, it begins to manifest signs of unaccountable nervousness, whines all the time, and keeps rubbing up against its master and licking his hands. It loses its appetite, its bark becomes strange—hoarse and cracked. The animal continuously raises its muzzle and gulps air. With every successive day the dog's behaviour becomes more and more aggressive. It starts attacking other animals (dogs, cows, birds, etc) and devours inedible objects. Profuse salivation is observed. After a few days (usually on the fourth) the stage of excitation passes into the paralytic stage, and the animal perishes rapidly. When a cat is infected, it hides in some secluded spot, doesn't eat or drink anything, and perishes in a short while. If a sick cat is bothered, it gets excited, pounces upon people, biting and scratching arms, legs and the face.

CLINICAL PICTURE

The clinical picture of rabies in man, as in the case of domestic animals, features three periods: a) the premonitory or incubatory period ; b) the period of excitation ; c) the period of paralysis.

The early stage of the disease is characterised by general indisposition, rise in body temperature—up to 37.2-37.4 degrees—loss of appetite, disturbed sleep with dreams of an ominous character. The sick person seems to have, as it were, a premonition of some misfortune, and experiences mental depression and unaccountable anguish. During this period, pain reappears or becomes more acute at the bitten spot ; and, frequently, swelling appears as the healed spot—the scar reddens and swells slightly. This is a rather short period of not more than three days. Towards the end of the premonitory and during the excitation periods, the patient's breathing becomes more rapid, he experiences suffocation, constriction in throat, and operation of the breathing muscles and the cardiovascular system is impaired. During the excitation period, the body temperature usually rises to 40 degrees and higher. Profuse salivation is observed. The patient cannot sleep at all. The slightest vibration of air (e.g., the opening of a door into the ward) causes sharp excitement. During this period, the patient suffers from severe thirst, but even the sight or sound of water produces convulsions of the muscles of the muscles of the mouth. Most characteristic of this period is the on set of hydrophobia, a morbid dread of water—that's precisely why rabies is called hydrophobia. The patient's speech becomes incoherent, stuttering, and his neuropsychic activity is impaired in most cases. Shortly before death, different groups of muscles become paralysed.

TREATMENT

However, doctors can abort rabies in a human who has been bitten by a rabid animal. Most imprtant in this case is the need for timely attendance by a doctor and the taking of preventive measures. The person bitten by a rabid animal must undergo a course of anti-rabies vaccinations at a special anti-rabies clinic.

The animal which has bitten a person should be placed under close watch. If it displays good health in the course of 15 days and manifests no signs of rabies, vaccination may be discontinued on the doctor's permission. However, if the animal perishes, or it proves impossible to place the animal under veterinary check-up, the patient should take a full course of vaccination.

All domestic animals must be subjected to regular veterinary check-ups. Animals suspected of carrying rabies, particularly those bitten by stray dogs, should be isolated and kept under special veterinary check-up for three months. Prophylactic inoculation of dogs is now practised on a broad scale in many countries.

New Flu Vaccine

Leningrad doctors have largely scotched a threatened flue epidemic this winter with a new gamma globulin containing four times as many flu antibodies as any previous vaccine.

This was developed at Pasteur Epidemiological Institute, one of the Soviet Union's leading medical centres. Its researchers believe further improvement is possible—the making of a vaccine eight times as effective.

New Boxing Glove

A new boxing glove which should help cut down the number of boxing injuries has been developed by Georgi Zybalov, a Soviet coach, who was a referee at the 1964 and 1968 Olympics.

The new glove does not have a separate space for the thumb, and its lining is made of resilient plastic material which lessens the impact of blows.

This will not only cut down on the number of knock-outs and injuries but will also place greater emphasis on technique than on pure strength.

The possibility of using the gloves in competition are expected to be discussed at the meeting of the International Amateur Boxing Association in Sydney this month.

Spanish Flue: Real Or Imaginary Threat?

By PETER BURGASOV

Recently, mankind has been alarmed by indications that a virus resembling the Spanish flu, which claimed nearly 20 million lives in 1919-20, is returning. Is there any ground for this alarm? If the epidemic actually threatens us, it is necessary to take urgent measures to produce a new vaccine which entails the mobilisation of enormous effort and means. We should not underestimate the threat of the Spanish flu, nor exaggerate it.

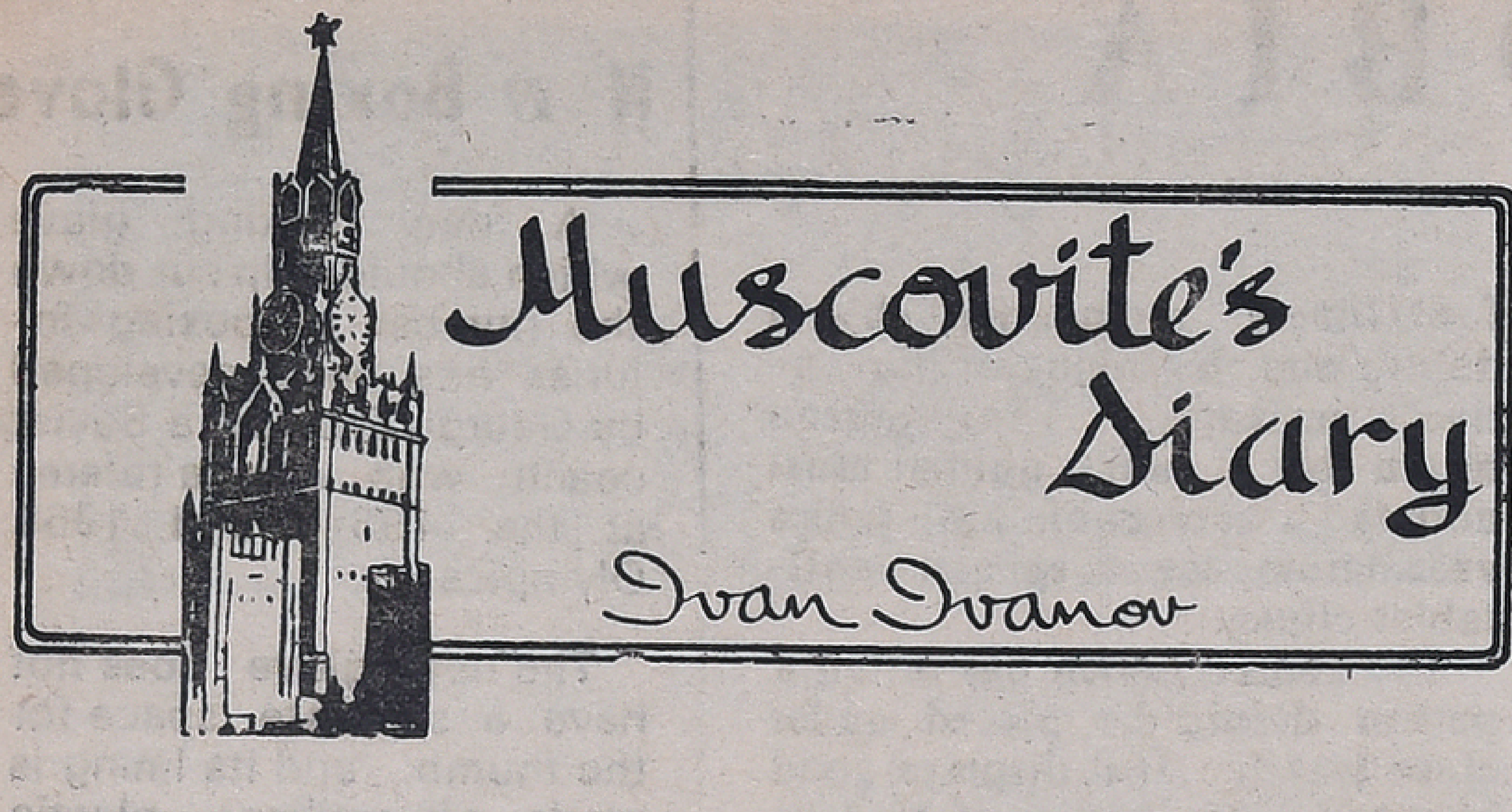
In 1976, doctors in one of the regions in the US reported a number of cases caused by a grippal virus very similar to that of the Spanish flu But no world expert could be sure whether the two diseases are completely identical. The reason is that at the time when the Spanish flu was ravaging in the world, scientists did not know how to separate viruses, and at present there are no Spanish flu viruses in our laboratory museums. However, we have indirect data to suppose that during the 1919-epidemic the Spanish virus transcended the barrier between the species and caused an epizootic among swine. It is this grippe that the disease registered in the US last summer is similar to. This similarity has led us to examine the virus of the "swine grippe", and we have already prepared a set of serums to diagnose the disease if it attacks us. We have also manufactured a stock of special gammaglobulin to cure it.

Experience in combating epidemics in the past has shown that the spread of influenza can be checked if those infected are isolated in good time.

So far the possibility of fighting the virus which has already penetrated a human organism is very limited. But the system of forbidding the patients from attending their duties, and the execution of doctors' prescriptions help cut down substantially the number of complications which, in the case of influenza, are quite dangerous. Confinement to bed is recommended to all patients.

Police Drug Traffickers

American newspapers have published excerpts from a U. S. State Department report saying "Paraguay has developed into a translent place for heroin from Europe to the United States, as well as for cocaine from South America." The report regrets that "it seems to have been difficult for some officials of Paraguay to understand the importance of the effort of the United States to terminate the illegal drug traffic into our country." Among those people the Nation magazine names the head of the country's criminal investigations department, whom it calls the key organizer of the heroin trade.



STEADY RISE IN SOVIET PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING

I had occasion in the past to tell my readers through these columns about the steady rise in the standard of living of the Soviet people in each passing year. Now the publication by the USSR Central Statistical Board last month, gives me yet another opportunity to tell them the result of the year 1976.

It says that the average money earnings of office and factory workers rose by 3.6 per cent, those of collective farmers by six per cent and the real per capital incomes by 3.7 per cent. These will mean a lot for the family budgets of millions of Soviet people, since the prices of basic foods and consumer goods have remained stable. House rents and city transport fares have also remained unchanged for decades. In Moscow, for instance, subway and bus fares are five kopecks, trolley-bus, four kopecks, and tram, three kopecks for all distances.

The social consumption funds have increased by 4,400 million roubles, and now stand at 94,500 million roubles. As is known, in the Soviet Union, these funds provide for free education and medical services, for old-age pensions and students' grants, for various allowances to low-income families, to mothers with many children and for recreational facilities to the working people.

The State Plan is to increase by 1980 the payments made from these funds to 115,000 million roubles. The increase by 4,400 million roubles in 1976 inplies a rise in old-age pensions, additional vouchers to sanatoria, holiday homes and tourist lodges (given at discount rates to factory and office workers and collective farmers), and new allocations to public health, education and pre-school training systems.

* * *

RIGVEDA IN UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

Selected hymns from Rigveda has been recently published for the first time inthe Ukrainian language. The Ukrainian journal 'Vsecvist' (the whole world) in its special number devoted to India has published selected hymns from Rigveda translated from Sanskrit. Alexander Beletskei, well known Ukrainian literary critic and scholar in his article 'Ancient India and its literature' has dealt in detail the various aspects of Vedic literature.

The Ukrainian monthly has published many poems and stories by various contemporary Indian authors. A short story 'Malay Mayakkam' written by the popular Tamil writer Jayakanthan, and the noted Malayalam writer Takahi Sivasankara Pillai's short story have been published. The works of wellknown Indian writers like Shubash Mukherjee, Bhisham Sahani, Krishan Chandar Shrikant Varma, Shomoresh Boshu, Amrita Pritam have been published by the journal in its special issue. Georgy Kharchko, a geologist who worked in India, has written about the progress made by India in various fields. The journal has also carried many articles portraying the various aspects of Indian culture and art. The journal with a circulation of more than 75,000 copies will surely help the Ukrainian people to know more about India.

* * *

ENVIRONMENT OF LENINGRAD

Experts have compiled the most comprehensive "ecological map" ever produced of Leningrad, the USSR's second largest city, population over four million.

It indicates, among other things, the residential and industrial areas, parks, open spaces, bodies of water, motorways and statistics on public health. It will help the city authorities to take all possible steps to avoid any adverse effects from further developments in planning, transport and industry.

Leningrad is already reputed to be one of cleanest cities in the world.

From page 3

Conservation of....

Nagar Haveli forms the sixth region representing extensive alluvial plains, sandy plains, sand dunes and saline depressions. The annual precipitation is 10 cm to 65 cm. Failure of rains is common and probability of highly deficient rainfall is once in 2.5 years. Vegetation consists of alluvial, black and desert. Salinity and alkali are common in heavier textured soils. Ground water is invariably saline.

PROBLEM OF RAVINE EROSION

Cultivation is confined to less than 40% of the area Bajra is the major crop under rainfed conditions. A variety of crops are however grown under irrigation.

The seventh region comprises Semi-Arid Lava Plateaux and Central Highlands which includes the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, Western and Central Madhya Pradesh.

This region is of plateaux of moderate heights ranging from 300 to 1400 metres of horizontally bedded sedimentaries in Madhya Pradesh and Basalt in Maharashtra. The climate is semi-arid with annual rainfall of 70 to 125 cm.

Vegetation consists of moist and dry deciduous forests and semi-evergreen and thorny scrub. Soils are alluvial, black and mixed red and black. Texture and depth variability limit moisture retentivity.

Lack of irrigation facilities and ravine erosion are the problems in the Bundelkhand tract.

The last and the picturesque region is the Humid and Semi-Arid Western Ghats and Karnataka plateaux which includes the Western Ghats, plateau, river valleys, rocky plains and coastal plains of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep.

The climate of the Western Ghats and highlands of Tamil Nadu are humid and the rest of the area is semi-arid. In the Western Ghats precipitation varies from 60 to 200 cm.

SALINITY AND MOISTURE DEFICIENCY

The vegetation in the Western Ghats is tropical evergreen and deciduous forests. Black, red, lateritic and alluvial soils are generally found in the region. Black soils vary considerably in depth.

Plantation crops are taken dominantly on lateritic soils. Cultivated areas vary from 10% in the Western Ghats to 55% in Karnataka plateau and 44% in Tamil Nadu. Important crops are paddy, sugarcane, jowar, ragi, pulse, cotton and oilseeds.

Main problems are salinity and alkalinity, acidity, erosion moisture deficiency and lack of irrigation facilities.

Not all the regions mentioned earlier are endowed with required water resources. About 20% of the cultivated area is under irrigation.

A major part of the country to the extent of nearly 80 per cent of the cropped land depends on rainfall for agriculture. Weather analyses are made to understand the occurrence and intensity of drought to manipulate cropping systems by adjusting sowing dates, introducing new varieties, taking to alternate cropping and changing the land use wherever necessary.

An inter-disciplinary study with the Indian Meteorological Department has made it possible to delineate areas in Maharashtra State varying in intensity of drought-proneness from slight to high. Similar studies are in progress for Karnataka and Rajasthan.

INTEGRATED STRATEGY

Coming to water, the resources are vast and varied. It is estimated that the area under irrigation can be doubled during the next 25 years from the present 44 million hectares.

An integrated strategy for the utilization of ground and surface water and for harvesting rainwater in the agro-ecological regions will help to transform our agriculture and rural economy.

In the arid areas there is need for utmost economy in the use of water. The flood-prone areas of the Indo-Gangetic plain provide a challenge for water resources development and management.

Besides, the main river courses, the old river courses having potential source of surface water can be harnessed for irrigation through river pumping schemes. The Diara or the islands in the river bed particularly in the Ganga and Brahmaputra contribute to the vast recharge basin for groundwater during flood period thus providing scope for shallow tubewells.

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

There is considerable scope for increasing the irrigated area in most of the hilly regions by introducing lift irrigation. Pumping, water conveyance, land development, proper method of irrigation, scheduling of irrigation, crop planning for high water efficiency are of paramount importance in water resource management.

The human interference with the natural resources for his survival is imperative and unavoidable. But the question is to regulate his interference so as to maintain a balance in the eco-system and conservation of resources.

Past experience has shown that drastic and indiscriminate exploitation like deforestation, shifting cultivation etc. has disturbed the equilibrium leading to depletion of these resources. The objective of the regional development is to utilise the resources in the scientific manner and yet cause no perceivable large scale damage to the resources.

(Courtesy: Akashvani, Delhi)

From page 1

Peace, Progress...

the Congress-All India ADMK electoral alliance, said the alliance was brought about by the need for the unity of like-minded parties under a common leadership to defeat the evil forces and corruption that were thwarting the nation's progress.

Sri M. G. RAMACHANDRAN
AIADMK Leader

The Congress High Command therefore decided to ally itself with the AIADMK in view of its nationalistic outlook, its support to the Congress Government's progressive plans and policies in anticipation of the continuity of this support and its acceptance of the Prime Minister's leadership.

He likened the coming elections to the Mahabaratha war and said even in that war some innocent people had joined the wrong camp and were ultimately ruined.

If people wanted the golden era in Tamil Nadu that prevailed during the time of Mr. Kamaraj to come back, they should vote for the Congress, he said.

At the world Finance Ministers' conference at Manila, experts felt that if one wanted to see evidence of check on inflationary trends and increase in food production, one had to visit India. They also felt that in the next decade, India would be one of the leading countries in the world.

Mr. Subramaniam said in the future plans would have to be formulated at the village level and must be based depending on the needs of the different villages. "No more will plans drawn at Delhi or Madras be helpful to the villages. Plans will have to be at the grass-root level," he added.

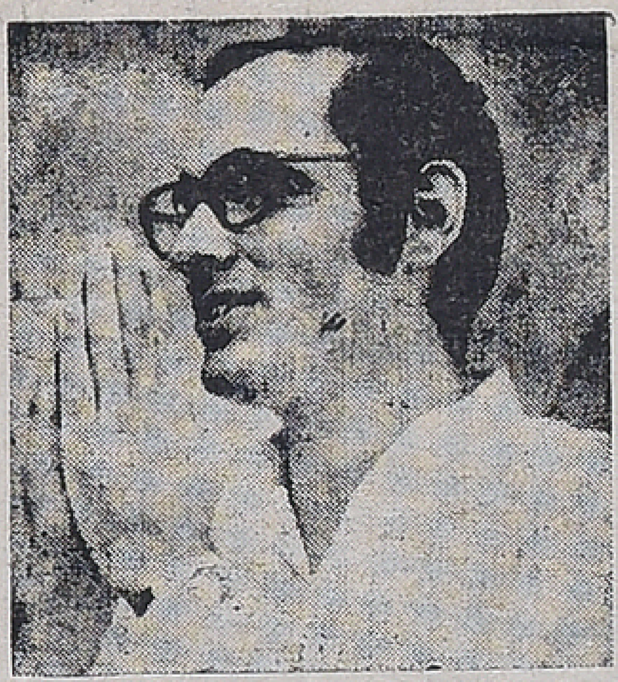
Only then poverty could be removed. Every citizen must be provided with clothing and shelter, a health scheme catering to the needs of the poor is well, and an educational scheme to benefit every child in the village. These were schemes which would have to come and would come. But the people too would have to appreciate the good in them and eschew agitations and strikes that might hamper their implementation.

Mr. Subramaniam said people seemed to doubt if the Ganga and the Cauvery could be linked "But I say that they can be linked" and only then the drought conditions could be removed once and for all.

SANJAY'S ROLE

West Bengal Chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray told a Calcutta Press club meeting that "a mountain has been made out of a molehill" so far as Mr. Sanjay Gandhi was concerned. Rumours were circulated that he took all the decisions, even policy decisions. "But I want to say categorically that this is not correct."

He added, "it was said that he decided to have the Constituent Assembly. Well, there is no constituent assembly. It was said Mr. Sanjay Gandhi did not want election. Well, election is taking place. It was said Mr. Gandhi wanted to change the leadership of West Bengal Congress. Well, the leadership has not changed. It is not possible for the Prime Minister to run a vast country, like India, unless every important decision is taken by her."



Sri SANJAY GANDHI
Youth Congress Leader

As far as he knew, the Prime Minister was in "full control and authority and it is she who takes all decisions.

Asked why then did Mr. Sanjay Gandhi get VIP treatment, Mr. Ray said "My Personal opinion is the Chief Ministers should not see Mr. Gandhi at airports. If some people do it, you cannot help it So far as West Bengal is concerned you know what happend."

He said, "We should not read too much into the rumours about Mr. Sanjay Gandhi."

Asked how he could justify the emergency, Mr. Ray said if the emergency was not imposed, there would not have been democracy at all. The emergency, he added, would be withdrawn at the right time by the Prime Minister and "she has an excellent sense of timing", but the emergency had already been relaxed considerably.

From page 2

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

a half years before being released in April 1945.

The same year he contested a seat for the state assembly. His staunch adherence to the Congress drew the wrath of the Muslim League which deployed all its might against him and got him defeated. He was appointed advocate general of Assam in 1946.

DECISIVE ROLE

He became a member of the Congress working committee soon after, and was member of the Rajya Sabha for a spell. In 1955, he led an Indian lawyers delegation to the USSR, and was a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations in 1957.

Mr. Ahmed reverted to state politics in 1957 when he was elected to the Assam assembly by an over-whelming majority in the following year, he joined the state cabinet, holding charge of the portfolios of finance, law, community development panchayat and local self-government.

Re-elected to the state assembly in 1962, Mr. Ahmed retained all his ministerial portfolios except that of local self-government Two years later, he became a member of the all India congress working committee and also of the Congress parliamentary board.

In 1964, he toured the United States on an invitation from the US government and visited Japan and Hong Kong on his way back. He attended the celebration of Malaysia's independence day and the inauguration of the international mosque and airport at Kuala Lumpur as a representative of the government of India.

As a prominent member of the state cabinet, he played a decisive role in solving the problem of illegal immigration from the then East Pakistan. It was a result of his efforts that tribunals were appointed to sort out illegal migrants.

IN UNION CABINET

Elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1966, Mr. Ahmed was sworn in minister of irrigation and power in the union cabinet on January, 29. Eleven months later on November 14, he became education minister.

In the 1967 general election he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Barpeta constituency in Assam and was then appointed cabinet minister for industrial development and company affairs.

Mr. Ahmed was responsible for chalking out a new industrial policy aimed at accelerating the growth of small and ancillary industries and giving them a broader base. He also paid special attention to backward areas and formulated a policy of selective foreign collaboration.

He piloted the monopolies bill and introduced the patents bill, besides touring a number of foreign countries.

During the Congress split in 1969, Mr. Ahmed played a key role in helping the prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in rebuilding the Congress.

The same year, Mr. Ahmed represented India at the conference of heads of Arab states at Rabat.

Mr. Ahmed took over as minister for agriculture on June 27, 1970. He was reassigned this important portfolio after his election to the Lok Sabha in 1972 general election.

VISITS ABROAD

He attended the food and agriculture organisation conference in Australia as a special guest in 1970 and visited Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong. He led the Indian delegation to the FAO councils session in Rome in November 1971 and November 1973.

During the Bangladesh crisis and the large scale influx of refugees Mr. Ahmed visited Lebanon Iraq and the UAR to explain India's stand and the problems faced by her in its wake.

Mr. Ahmed was the senior most member of the political affairs committee of the cabinet and in that capacity he has been associated with all the political decisions.

As president, he visited Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and East European countries.

Nominated

India has been nominated to two of the functional commissions of Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which had its first organisational meeting of the year recently. While Mrs. Sarla Grewal represents India in the Population Commission, Miss. Kamla Tyabji represents the country in the Commission on the Status of Women.

Ambiguous

An ordinance adopted in Kentucky (U.S.A.) half a century ago forbids people to gather in public with masks on their faces. It was recently revived in Owensboro, where two men dressed up in aluminium masks as Martians to play a joke on a friend, owner of a grocery store. The latter thought it was a holdup and called the police. The "Martians" were penalized. But the city attorney thinks the ordinance should be revised because it affects Santa Clauses too since they wear masks. Whether this conclusion will convince state legislators remains to be seen.

Sri Gayathri Swami is being received with Poorna Kumbam by Mrs. & Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan and others.

Sri Gayathri Swamigal Felicitated

Sri La Sri Gayathri Swamigal was the guest of honour at a reception organised by the **Adiyar Thirukkootta Iraipani Mandram** on February 3, at Tambaram. The function was held at the residence of Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Proprietor, Bhaskar & Co., Tambaram to coincide with the **Pournami Pooja**, performed under the direction and immediate presence of Sri Gayathri Swamigal.

Mr. Ml. Pa. Somasundaram (Somu) who presided over the function, spoke highly of the super human powers of Siddhas in general and praised Sri Gayathri Swamigal for using such powers for the good of the suffering humanity. Unostentatious, sincere and kind, Sri Gayathri Swamigal symbolised the celestial beings born in the grab of mere mortals with the sole aim of giving solace to the people suffering from mental and physical illness, true to the sayings of our ancient sages. It is up to us to approach such men with reverence and implicit faith and confidence and be benefited by their guidance and blessings, Mr. Somu said.

On behalf of the numerous beneficiaries of Sri Swamigal's benign blessings, Mr. R. T. Krishnamurthi, Income Tax Officer, Tambaram, decorated Sri Swamigal with a Ponnadai as a token of expression of their reverential gratitude.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan on his own behalf and the members of his family presented to Sri Swamigal laced dothi and **angavasthram**.

Two poems specially composed by Mr. Visaka Nambi and Mr. Mayan were recited during the function.

Mr. S. Sowmianarayanan and Mr. Bhagavathi Muthu, Municipal Commissioner also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier Mr. T. Ekambaram, President of the Tambaram Adiyar Thirukkootta Iraipani Mandram welcomed the guests. Mr. V. S. Ramalingam, Income Tax Officer, Tambaram and Mr Mani, Retd. R.T.O. were among those present on the occasion.

Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan proposed a vote of thanks.

After an elaborate pooja to Sri Chakram and Sri Gayathri Chakram, hundreds of devotees present on the occasion individually received the prasadams and the blessings of Sri Swamigal.

"Pallavi" Is Neat And Good

When the director of a film decides to narrate the story in detail and establish convincingly the characteristics of the different characters in the story it is bound move slow. In the Malayalam film "Pallavi" director Balakrishnan Pottekkad tells the story of a young upright and faithful man in a detailed manner. Though it moves slowly it sustains interest till the end.

The story is about a young man in a village in Kerala—Rahim. Rahim helps his friend Rajan marry Leela against the wish of her brother, one of the richmen in the village. After sometime, Rajan dies leaving Leela and his child to the care of of Rahim. Against odds Rahim helps Leela. Leela's brother and others try to dissuade Rahim from helping Leela. How Rahim over comes the pressures brought on him is told in the later part of the film.

The character of Rahim suits actor Soman well. He has done a fine job. Jayabharathi as Leela is impressive. Rajakokila as Rukhiya is adequate. Bahadoor as Ahmed, a friend of Abdullakka, and Nellikkode Bhaskaran as Abdullakka, father of Rahim, have lived their roles.

Parathulli Ravindran has written the story and dialogues. Jesudas, Jayachandran and Madhuri have rendered the songs composed by P. Bhaskaran and P. Ravindran. The songs were pleasing. Rajan has composed the music. Nivas has neatly photographed the film for producer T. P. Haridas.

Jayachitra. She was the rage of Tamil film fans for a time. Her latest to be released shortly is C. N. V. Movies "Navarathinam."

Sukumari pacifying Lakshmi in "Seervarisai".

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